

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 1, 2004, and prior to the examination of this RCE application, Applicant provides the present Preliminary Amendment. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-58 and has added new claims 59-72. In view of the Amendment and remarks below, Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant appreciates the personal interview conducted April 27, 2004 by the examiner.

In the April 1, 2004 Office Action, Claims 1-2 and 4-58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,605,506 to Hoorn et al. (Hoorn) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,265,984 to Molinaroli (Mol). Hoorn is typical of the prior art that the present invention was designed to improve upon. Prior art slot machines have used candles which contain incandescent light bulbs surrounded by a clear or translucent cylindrical shell. A colored plastic film is generally inserted within the shell. Occasionally the colors have to be changed and this is a difficult and time consuming operation. Typically, a casino service technician climbs to the top of the gaming machine, dismantles the candle, removes any of the colored films within the candle that are undesirable and inserts new colored films at the desired stages of the candle. This is the type of candle disclosed in the *Hoorn* reference (5:53-59; 6:14-18).

One of the great features of the present invention is the elimination of all of these problems. Instead of using incandescent light bulbs with a colored plastic film inserted within the candle shell, and instead of requiring manual removal of the colored film and insertion of a new colored film, the present invention provides a candle having multiple stages with a number of multi-colored LEDs within each stage thereby providing an illumination pattern. A processor which is programmed in response to an input operation by a user provides for the control of the color display by controlling the energization of the multi-colored LEDs. Such a system allows

for color changes to the various stages in the candle merely by reprogramming the processor or activating a preprogrammed illumination pattern

Claims 59-72 include elements that are not taught or suggested by Hoorn or Mol. Independent claim 59 requires a method of illuminating a candle of a gaming machine including the step of triggering the multi-colored LEDs of at least one stage to provide an illumination pattern upon occurrence of a first event. Neither Hoorn nor Mol, alone or in combination, teach or suggest each of the steps of claim 59. Although Mol discloses use of LEDs for hand held or movable devices, it does not teach or suggest use of LEDs for a candle or a gaming machine or providing triggering of multi-colored LEDs of at least one stage to provide an illumination pattern upon occurrence of a first event. As Hoorn also does not teach or suggest triggering of multi-colored LEDs of at least one stage to provide an illumination pattern upon occurrence of a first event, its combination with Mol also fails to teach or suggest the present invention.

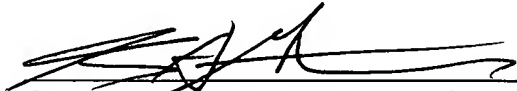
Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of Mol and Hoorn to arrive at Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, claims 59-72 are allowable as the limitations of the claims and are not taught or suggested by Hoorn in view of Mol.

Appl. No. 10/008,748
Reply to Office action of April 1, 2004

If the examiner has further questions or would like to discuss the application, please contact counsel for Applicant as provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP




George H. Gerstman, Reg. No. 22,419

SEYFARTH SHAW LLP
55 East Monroe Street
Suite 4200
Chicago, Illinois 60603
(312) 346-8000

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I hereby certify that, on June 14, 2004 this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Patricia A. Van Hecke